PICNIC SUGGESTIONS

By Cornelia C. Bedford.

FEW outings are more enjoyable than a well planned picnic in some cool, quiet, well shaded spot. The prejudice against it which exists in many minds arises from any or all of three causes. A badly chosen location, food poorly selected and served, and uncongenial company. The masculine element objects to acting as burden bearer, yet will not, of course, allow the ladies to load themselves without undertaking a large share.

The wise head of such expeditions will bear these points in mind and in planning an unconventional outing of this sort will first of all select the "one day camp," with special reference to its accessibility and shadiness. When not within easy walking distance of boat, train or trolley some arrangement should be made for transportation of the heaviest and most bulky of the paraphernalia. Where friends combine to hire a team of some kind and a wood fire is feasible one or more hot dishes can be planned; otherwise the luncheon—which is, or should be, an enjoyable feature of the day—ought to be of the ready-to-eat variety. Planning for this lunch should be done at least a day or two in advance. What memories of endless dried up sandwiches, messy cake, and sticky pie it recalls! Wherefore, take time by the forelock and put together eatables and drinkables as will carry well, with such conveniences for serving as will make it possible to consume them with decency. Make a list of both, that at the last minute nothing may be forgotten.

Beginning with serving conveniences, the absolutely necessary articles are wooden plates, paper napkins, drinking cups, one sharp steel knife, forks and spoons, a corkscrew, a can opener, a piece of soap and towels. To this should be added a piece of court plaster, a small bottle of arnica, safety pins and a pocket housewife in case of accident to person or clothes. This list can be augmented when desirable, by a table cloth, alcohol stove and matches, saucepan or coffee pot and other essentials for cooking. Much labor is saved after reaching the picnic ground if sandwiches are prepared before hand; nor need they be dry and unpalatable if properly packed, even though made the day before. When several varieties are prepared designate each kind by its shape—square, triangular, round, etc. The bread should be old enough to slice well; the crusts should be cut off and the end of the loaf be buttered before slicing. Children do not appreciate sandwiches which are too thin—such are reserved for their elders. The fillings should not be too moist or the bread will be soaked. A certain number of plain bread and butter sandwiches should always be made. As fast as each variety is made up the sandwiches should be neatly piled and wrapped in a damp napkin; when packed each is again wrapped in paraffine paper. This useful article is so frequently needed throughout the year that a supply should be kept in the house. It can be bought for about 75 cents a ream of 500 sheets.

Canned fish and meats are not always appetizing, but an exception may be made in favor of the popular sardine. Those who have never tried them should sample the little smoked sardines known as keiller sprotten—they will be found delicious. Among other substantials which bear carriage well and are good to eat cold are fried or broiled chicken, pressed corned beef, beef a la mode, little beef pies or turn overs, pickled oysters, boiled tongue, a roast joint of mutton, veal loaf, homemade potted meats, saratoga chips, hard boiled eggs, plain or deviled ham. Salads are usually appreciated, but the varied ingredients after decepacation, should be diced; marinated, if necessary, and packed in fruit jars; the lettuce or other green separated, washed, rolled in a dripping wet cloths, then in paraffine paper; the dressing poured in another fruit jar and rolled in a wet cloth to keep cool. A potato salad is one of the few which bears transportation well after mixing, but no beets should be added as they part too readily with their color.

Small relishes which are generally liked are olives, crisp cucumber pickles, salted nuts, crystallized ginger and similar dry confections.

Cake must, of course, be taken, but such varieties should be selected as do not crumble; layer cakes are best omitted, but pound, gold, silver and other plain cakes (loaf) are admissible, as well as some cookies and jumbles. Do not attempt pies. Bananas carry well, but most berries crush too easily to be carried.

Drinks of some sort are a necessity. When no hot drink can be made prepare a bottle of clear, very strong coffee or tea and let it be accompanied by a bottle of sugar syrup; the latter blends most readily with the liquid and each person can sweeten their drink to taste. The juice squeezed from lemons and other fruits, sweetened moderately, can also be bottled and suitably diluted as needed. It is well to investigate the water supply lest it be polluted in some way.

In packing the edibles selected from this or the home list, heavy cardboard boxes are best as they can be discarded when emptied. Put all utensils, with salt and pepper, in one box, sandwiches in another, cake in a third. Keep fruits by themselves. In this way each article retains its individual taste and the burden of carrying can be more evenly distributed among members of the party.

A pocket alcohol stove and a tin pail will readily supply hot coffee for a few people and a can of condensed milk replace the usual cream. In such cases the coffee, coarsely ground and generous in measure, is best encased in a muslin bag thus ensuring a clear drink. Tea can be made in the same way.

On a beach a wood fire is usually feasible and when driving there does away with human burden bearers the possibilities of hot meals increase.

A large kettle of creamed potatoes can be readily reheated, so can stewed or fricasseed chicken, creamed eggs or fish and several varieties of chowder. With a good bed of wood coals steak can be broiled, using a long strip of stout wire netting quickly fastened at each end to a log with a couple of nails. When cooking in this way it is best to thickly cover each side of the meat with salt to prevent its burning—this is scraped off before serving. With such an outdoor meal as this tin plates or something more resistant than the familiar wooden ones—are essential. When corn on the cob is obtainable it is delightful roasted over coals, but, unless one enjoys it either half raw or burned, it is advisable to strip it at home and boil for five minutes in salted water. To finish its cooking out of doors get the gentlemen of the party to forage for a number of stout green sticks about three feet long, whittling the smaller end to a point. Impale the end of a cob on each point and it will be an easy matter to hold the ear over the glowing coals.

DRINKING MEN AT A DISCOUNT.

(New York Sun.)

Total abstinence pledges, prohibition laws, the exhibition of "horrible examples," and the preaching of intemperance as a sin may have had a certain amount of influence in deterring men from drinking, but the social sentiment against intemperance as an imprudence has accomplished far more. Drunkenness has become disreputable or is looked on as a deplorable disease. People are more sensible. The strain of modern social conditions, it has been found, compels sobriety. The drunkard cannot keep up the pace, and falls behind those who hold their appetites in restraint.

TO LONG.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

"Our next experiments," said the eminent government chemist "will be in the direction of cold storage. We want to know how long food supplies can be preserved with ice and retain their healthful properties."

"Don't do it," said the man who boards around. "The last duck our landlady gave us for Sunday dinner lasted ten days."

NO DOUBT OF IT.

(Detroit Free Press.)

"I read the other day," said Keedrick, "of a doctor who was called in to diagnose the case of a government office holder, and who told his patient frankly that he was suffering from underwork and overpay."

"I've no doubt that his bill tended to remove the consequences of the latter trouble," added Fosdick.

CHARLES E. JOHNSON TELLS OF CHRISTMAS IN PALESTINE.

Christmas Eve Procession to Bethlehem. —Photo by Johnson.

DURING his tour of the Holy Land with Madame Mountford, as the duly accredited photographer of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition company, Charles E. Johnson of Salt Lake City saw many novel and intensely interesting sights. In an interview published in The Herald Aug. 2, he gave a general account of his trip from the state on Nov. 20, 1903, until his return. The following is a more specific narrative and tells of the Christmas observances of the Latin church in Jerusalem:

"Upon arrival at Jaffa (ancient Joppa), which is the principal landing place for all Palestine tourists, I decided to remain a few days and visit friends. I went up to Jerusalem just in time for the Christmas festivities at Bethlehem.

"I accompanied Madame Mountford, the well known Oriental lecturer, who was born and raised in Jerusalem, and who speaks Arabic, Russian, French, German and Hindu fluently. This enabled me to gain a better insight into the meaning of all the ceremonies attendant upon the holy days, as she freely understood what was being said at all times.

Patriarch Goes to Bethlehem.

"The ceremonies in Bethlehem are very interesting and profuse. About 11 o'clock on the eve of Christmas the patriarch of Jerusalem of the Latin church leaves the city in his carriage, accompanied by his escort of Kiwasses (cavasses) and proceeds toward Bethlehem, which is about five miles distant. A large tent has been erected about midway, near one of the noted convents. Here the patriarch and his retinue stop to rest, have refreshments and receive visitors and friends for a short time. They then proceed, and at about the same time all the city officials and church dignitaries of Bethlehem start forward to meet them. They go as far as the tomb of Rachel, about two miles out, and here they meet and salute the patriarch and join the cavalcade. Upon reaching the open space or square near the Church of the Nativity they are met by the priests and bishop, who robe the patriarch in the holy vestments and all proceed on foot to the church and into the church, where solemn ceremonies are enacted. These are finished near sundown and everybody goes home for a rest, to resume the more important ceremonies of midnight. At 11 o'clock at night the bells of Bethlehem are rung. It seems as if there were thousands.

Impressive Ceremony.

"Soon the patriarch and a multitude of people are assembled in the church. A solemn and impressive ceremony is then sung by the priests and altar boys, which ends in the bringing out of a wax baby, which is blessed and swaddled, and all the crowd, carrying thousands of candles, move in a procession down into the cave where the manger-cradle is located. The baby is left in the manger and the crowd disperses. This is ended about 3 o'clock

C. E. Johnson in Bedouin Costume.

"Immense throngs of people gather in the morning. This wax baby, representing the Savior, is allowed to remain in the manger for thirteen days, or until the Greek church has its ceremonies. The Greek calendar is thirteen days later than ours, and at this time almost the same ceremonies are enacted by that church, except that no image of the baby is used, and no organ music is heard. The Latins use a fine pipe organ which they have in the church. The Greeks have vocal services only, and both churches have only priests and boys for singing. The photograph shows the cavalcade as they are proceeding to the door of the Church of the Nativity, just after the patriarch has been clad in his holy vestments.

"The 'people on the housetops,' often referred to in the Bible, are here seen in their natural condition. The girls, with white caps or bonnets on their heads, are the Bethlehem girls, and the others are visitors from the various villages about the country. The Bethlehem women, both married and unmarried are wearing the same costume as worn when the Savior was born. The young girls wear the white cloth over their heads, and no jewelry. The married women wear a cap covered with coins fixed on like scales of a fish, and the white cloth goes over this, almost covering it up. This cap is the 'high horns' spoken of by one of the prophets. The married woman wears also much jewelry—'tinkling ornaments'—chains, bangles, bracelets, etc.

from every point on the earth for the Christmas festivities in Bethlehem. Pilgrims come to worship and pray at the holy shrines, while many are there out of curiosity and a desire to see the real thing in its place, as in my own case. Lodgings at this time are very scarce, in fact many sleep in any nook or corner in the church or anywhere they can spread down a blanket. The same reason why the Saviour was born in a manger is illustrated every Christmas at the present time, except that at that time it was to pay taxes, while now it is to worship at the shrine of his birth.

"From the top of the Church of the Nativity you get a beautiful view of the country, especially of the 'Shepherd's Fields' just east of Bethlehem. One of the principal industries of Bethlehem is the making of beads and rosaries, etc., from mother of pearl. Many of these carvings are worth from one to five hundred dollars. Whole families work on the beads and crosses, making them slowly and laboriously by hand. These find ready sale to the pilgrims who make their way to Bethlehem. I brought a few home. The shells are sawed up by hand into little squares and then drilled and turned to the size and shape desired. The children who do this part use a rude bow drill both for drilling and for turning. Some are finished exquisitely, while others are neatly rounded off the corners and sold cheap. The crosses are carved delicately in flowers and vines, and often in the most dainty scroll work.

Easy to Go to Palestine.

"A visit to Bethlehem is interesting at any time, but doubly so at Christmas. Should you ever visit the Holy Land, try and time your visit to catch it. It is very easy now to go to Palestine, as the modern methods of travel and the arrangements for conducting parties or persons are so perfect, that it is really no more of an effort than to go to Ogden or to Logan. The expense of going to Palestine from New York is about two hundred dollars each way, and the expenses while there, sight-seeing every day, will be about four or five dollars each day. Sight-seeing means carriages or donkeys or horses extra, and an interpreter or 'dragoman,' as called in that country.

"I shall be glad to tell you anything at any time about the trip, and hope that many of my friends may have the chance to go and enjoy all the interesting things of the Holy Land, as I have enjoyed them. As soon as I have the photographs ready, of which I took nearly two thousand, I shall be pleased to have all the readers of The Herald call and see them at my store or studio. Many of them are rare, as I was permitted through the influence of Madam Mountford to gain access to places hitherto impossible.

"In conclusion, I will give you the Oriental salutation, which is rarely omitted by anybody in Palestine when meeting or parting, even in the ordinary course of business. In place of our salutation of 'good-bye,' they say 'Salaam-Aleko'—peace to you."

HOW JAPANESE MEET DEATH.

Death rather than submission was the fate which was voluntarily chosen by the Japanese soldiers and others who were on board the transport Kinshui-maru at Gensan, when the Russian warships suddenly appeared on the scene. The Kobe Chronicle reprints from a native paper a most interesting account of this stirring incident of the war. It appears that the men had been ashore scouting, and had then reembarked. The escorting torpedo boat destroyer flotilla put to sea, and the transport followed, but soon the vessels were separated in a fog, and when this lifted the Kinshiu-maru found herself close to some warships. Captain Yagi of the Kinshiu-maru, thinking the squadron to be the Japanese, altered her course and steered toward the warships, when the signal "stop" floating from the mainmast and the firing of a blank shot across the Kinshiu's bows brought the vessel to a standstill. This turn of events naturally caused surprise and astonishment on board the transport, but nothing could be done in the way of escaping. Lieut. Commander Mizoguichi who had charge of the work of the transport, proposed resisting the warships and taking such measures as required by circumstances. This was agreed to be the best course, and, having said farewell to the military officers in command of the troops, and accompanied by Captain Yagi, Paymaster Iida, and an interpreter, Mr. Kondo, the lieutenant commander rowed to the nearest warship, whence, as is known, the party never returned, and are now prisoners of war at Irkutsk.

On board the Kinshiu-maru the military officers assembled in the saloon and took counsel as to their course of action. The officers were Captain Shiina, Captain Sakurai, Lieutenant Terada, Lieutenant Yokota and Ensign Higaki. After the conference Captain Shiina went into the 'tween decks, where the men had been ordered to assemble, and gave orders as to the course to be taken by them. Meanwhile both the transport and the warships had been lowering boats, and soon three officers boarded the Kinshiu and ordered the troops to lay down their arms and surrender, stating that if they did so they would be taken on board the warships. The soldiers were given an hour in which to arrive at a decision, and, having allowed the crew of the steamer and the passengers to take to the boats, the naval officers returned to the squadron.

It was now past midnight, with a bright moon and clear sky. A great silence prevailed on the transport, which now had only troops on board and a few bluejackets and coolies. Captain Shiina once again inspected his men, who were found in perfect order, some motionless, but others fixing bayonets or loading their rifles, preparing for the end. Sergeant Major Washi was collecting the maps, sketches, and etc., kept by the officers; Sergeant Okano gathered in the notebooks of the men, and maps and notebooks were thrown into the engine room fire. A corporal ordered the men to take off the numbers on their shoulder straps, so that everything should be destroyed which would prove of any value to the enemy afterward.

It was past 1 o'clock on the morning of April 26 when the Russians discharged a torpedo against the fore part of the transport. On this Captain Shiina again went into the 'tween decks and freed the men from military discipline. They were told to take what course they thought fit, as nothing could be done to avert disaster. The men, anxious to know the fate of their officers, swarmed up the companionways to the saloon, found the doors locked and no sound issuing therefrom. Inside were the officers, who had agreed to sink with the steamer, imprisoned in the saloon so that they should not fall into the hands of the enemy. Particular and scrupulous to the last, the officers had persuaded Captain Sakurai, who did not belong to their regiment, of the inadvisability of his dying with them. Captain Sakurai, an old experienced officer, regarded by the general staff as one of the smartest officers of the army in northern Korea, left his comrades, and the manner of his death is unknown. According to report, however, it seems there was not perfect unanimity in the manner the officers should meet their death. It is stated that Lieutenant Terada dissented from the command of Captain Shiina that the officers should die together, and left the ship, vowing that he would sell his life to the enemy, but die fighting. What became of Lieutenant Terada is not known.

The end of the men was equally tragic. Some minutes after Captain Shiina had given his last commands, which left the soldiers to their own resources, Sergeant Kurisu and Corporal Horisaka committed suicide by shooting each other, and many followed this example. Sergeant Okano went on deck, drew his sword, and committed hari kari, an example we are told, which was also followed by some of his men. A rather more soldierlike way of spending the last moments of their lives was that of Corporal Hashimoto and some sixty men, who from the desk fired repeatedly at the Russians by the corporal's command. The enemy replied with fatal effect, but the end of all was now near. Fifty minutes after the first torpedo was discharged a second torpedo struck the Kinshiu-maru, and nearly cut the vessel into two parts. It sank in thirteen minutes, but during this time a hot fire was kept up by the Japanese, who went down with the ship, cheering and singing the march song of their regiment.

The final stage of this chapter of the war is well known—how about sixty of the men succeeded in getting clear of the ship, either before or after she sank, and reaching the coast, but there were non-combatants whose fate is quite uncertain, bluejackets and coolies, whom it is thought possible the Russians may have picked up afterward. The end of many on board the Kinshiu-maru is one more striking example of the heroism with which men can be inspired when the alternative to death is surrender and the sense of military disgrace.—London Telegraph.

Landseer's Language.

Sir Edwin Landseer had a man servant who evidently looked upon his master as the greatest man in the world, and even when Prince Albert called, which he did occasionally when riding up to St. Johns woods, he would be told that "Sir Hedwin was hout," because the faithful "Cerberus," as he was called, thought his master did not want to be disturbed. There were other amusing stories about the same valet. On one occasion, when traveling to the north with Sir Edwin, he was very anxious about the luggage, and kept getting out whenever the train stopped to see if it was all right.

"What do you want?" said Cerberus.

"How about the luggage?" said Cerberus.

"What luggage?"

"Why, two trunks as black as hink and marked with hell."

"Marked with what?"

"Why, hell for Landseer, of course.—From S. A. Storey's "Sketches from Memory."

THE AMERICAN TOAD

By Ernest Harold Baynes.

WALK where you will in the twilight of these warm summer evenings, and the chance are that you will meet a toad. He may be hopping along the garden path, with a dignified pause after each hop; he may be skipping out of your way, across a dusty country road, or he may be moving back and forth in the bright field of an electric light. Watch him for a few minutes and you will begin to take an interest in this lowly, homely, much-despised and often much-abused little creature, for you will find him leading a busy, useful life. To the average person he is simply a toad, very loathsome, probably venomous, and capable of producing warts on the hands of those who are indelicate enough to touch his rough and unclean body. But give him fair play; judge him on twentieth century evidence, and not only will these old superstitions be dispelled, but you will find your subject a harmless being, scrupulously clean, and, especially after he has shed his old skin, wonderfully beautiful. Yes, I see that smile of incredulity, but pick him up and look at his eyes, and perhaps you will no longer wonder that it was said that every toad had a jewel in his head; you may be willing to admit that every toad has two jewels in his head, when you look with appreciation at those dark, lustrous orbs with their rings of powdered gold. And that skin, which once you feared to touch, you will find on careful examination to be beautifully marked and tinted. The beauty was there all the time, but the evil of superstition had hidden it from your view.

Now set him gently on the ground, and follow him about at a reasonable distance; watch him off and on for the rest of the summer, and I think you will come to the conclusion that you have many neighbors who do less and talk more about it than your funny old friend the toad. Just make a list of the creatures he eats during the year, and you will find, as Professor A. H. Kirkland did, that it includes such things as cutworms, ants, thousand-legged worms, tent caterpillars, ground beetles, May bettles, wireworm bettles, weevils, grasshoppers, crickets, spiders, sow-bugs, potato beetles, carrion beetles, snails and angleworms.

When you remember that most of these creatures are injurious to crops, and that during a large part of the year the toad fills his stomach about four times a day with them, you will admit that he does a good season's work for the farmer. And it should be borne in mind that he works without pay, and boards himself.

It is in the spring and during the breeding season that toads have the most to say for themselves. At this season hundreds of these little creatures gather in quiet ponds, which are soon awakened into life by the love-songs of the males; a musical rippling song which William Hamilton Gibson describes as "the sweetest sound in nature." Here the females deposit their eggs, very small and black, and set at short intervals in long strings of transparent jelly. Thousands of these eggs may be found lying upon the mud at the bottom of the ponds or twined about the water plants which grow there. In about two weeks, the period of incubation depending somewhat on the temperature of the water, the eggs are hatched and the polywogs wiggle out and begin to feed on the strings of jelly which lately encompassed them. They grow rapidly, and in the course of a few weeks more the legs are developed, the tail is absorbed and the tiny toads leave the water for a life on dry land. They are very sensitive to the sun's rays, and during the day they hide away under all sorts of objects which afford them shade, until evening or until a shower of rain tempts them out into the cool, moist air. In some cases, after rain, they come out in great numbers and the country newspapers report that they came down in the shower itself. While thus small, they are picked up and eaten by many species of birds, and even after they are full grown they are regarded as prey by hawks, owls, snakes and probably skunks and many other nocturnal creatures. The fact that they usually spend their days under cover doubtless saves them from many creatures which would otherwise prey upon them. Their only means of defense seems to be an acrid secretion of the skin, which is very distasteful to dogs and some other animals, but which quite fails to discourage the birds of prey.

If you have a toad in your garden, you will probably find that he has a particular spot which to him is home, and to which he returns each morning to spend the day. It may be a hole under the piazza; a hollow beneath a board or stone, or it may be a hole in the ground. Toads have been known to occupy such places every summer for years. If you are kind to him, it is possible to make your toad very tame, and he will come and take insects from your hands. The more toads you have in the garden, the fewer insects there will be to injure your flowers and vegetables, and, as it costs nothing to keep these living insect traps, it may be well to offer them some inducement to live on your premises. Dig shallow holes and partly cover them with boards or flat stones, and then, if you introduce a few toads, they are likely to make these places their headquarters, from which they will sally forth every evening to fight you insect enemies. And it is interesting to watch them at work, hunting for their prey among the flower-beds and along the garden-paths. A toad's tongue, like a frog's, is attached in front and free behind, and it is covered with a sticky secretion. As long as an insect is still, it is safe, but the moment it moves, the toad's tongue flies forward and is instantly withdrawn with the insect glued to it.

Some time ago I saw a toad shed his old skin. First the skin split in a straight line down the middle of the back, and the toad with his hind legs pulled it down and off as one might pull off a coat. Then, rolling up the skin into a sort of ball, he promptly swallowed it, showing his disinclination to waste anything—even his cast-off clothes.

THE GREATEST HERO.

(Baltimore American.)

You've raved over heroes of battle and camp, you have head "Scottish Chiefs" with a sob;
You've read how some creature from drowning was saved by an erstwhile inconsequent slob;
You've read, I am sure, how some fireman obscure risked his life and delivered the goods.
And how Pocahontas delivered John Smith by a hike of ten miles through the woods.
But none of the ones I have mentioned compare with the spike-shod and sweater-clad guy
Who hits a home run when the bases are full and the previous score was a tie.

You know how Horatius did stunts at the bridge—and it wasn't bridge whist, by the way—
You know how Bozzaris yelled things of his sires and then died for his country, one day.
You know how Dick Hobson of Merrimac fame faced death that was certain, to sink
A derelict barge in a channel so pinched that Cervera stayed in I don't think;
But what are the men I have mentioned to him whom the bleachers have hailed with "Good eye!"—
Who swats a home run when the bases are full and the previous score was a tie!

Some day when a hero convention is held, when Carnegie's dividing his dough,
There'll be such a lot of good men on the spot that twill puzzle old Andy to know
Just which should be favored with bits of the pile he had given for men who were made
Of that sort of stuff often read of in books and by men in all ages displayed.
Then, wild with despair o'er the puzzle he'll say: "Here, we'll give the whole lump to the guy
Who hit a home run when the bases were full and the previous score was a tie!"

PROBABLY RIGHT.

(New York Weekly.)

Grand-daughter—Mrs. Finetalk doesn't say "punkin" pie; she says "pumpkin."

Old Lady—She does, eh? Then I'll bet a cookie she doesn't know how to make one fit to eat.